

TRANSCRIPT—JEAN MOORE AND MICHAEL MOORE

Interviewee: Jean Moore and Michael Moore

Interviewer: Pat Fitzpatrick

Interview Date: March 15, 2017

Location: 38 Creekside View Drive, Asheville, N.C. (Home of Jean and Michael Moore)

Length: 1 digital recording; two files, 00:59:11 and 00:37:18

Transcriber: Pat Fitzpatrick

Transcription Date: March 16, 2017

Pat Fitzpatrick: I am at the home of Jean and Michael Moore, and Jean has brought out a number of newspaper clippings, photographs, family historical documents. We will look through these first.

Jean Moore: I thought you might like to see this.

PF: There's a picture of Jean in her UNCA cheerleading costume.

JM: I was a cheerleader. It was AB then, it was the last year before it turned into UNCA.

PF: It's a great photo. It looks like you.

JM: They don't exactly have the same-- We went to a game the other day, at UNCA, their uniforms are not exactly-- No, that's just me.

PF: You're why I'm here. And the fact that you're in North Asheville. There you are in a newspaper clipping "Ten Asheville-Biltmore", it was called then, "students have been

named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities". And a photo of the cheerleading team.

JM: David Millard Junior High. (Holding up tee shirt with depiction of a family on its front). This was a family reunion at a house on West Avon.

PF: "Lipinsky Family Reunion", "Summer of '94".

JM: The shirt was done in '94. The picture was actually in the fifties.

PF: And what was the number on Avon?

JM: It was either 138, I think, or 38. I know exactly where it is because there is actually a picture of me on the grounds. Now there are houses that, when I was growing up, with my mom and dad, and I think the whole family was here after the war.

PF: You mean for a reunion?

JM: No, they moved here. They lived, because Daddy and Mom were, you know, during the war they were in Mississippi, and the rest of the siblings were different places. I remember that house and we have been in it since. One of my cousins and I went.

PF: The stone block there would make it easy to find.

JM: But now they have done something like stucco it and it doesn't look like stone anymore, which is sad.

PF: Yes, it is, when they rehab.

JM: Yes. I didn't know you wanted to know about me. I thought it was my grandparents.

PF: No, you grew up in North Asheville. Actually, this is focused on North Asheville, this project, but when I'm with somebody I'd like to get the whole thing, because it encompasses other things that they can tie into. This information about your grandfather, Solomon Lipinsky, actually--you know, they did a whole series at the library on the eighties and the businesses that were here before then and he goes way back to the twenties, I guess.

JM: Oh, way back. My great grandfather died in 1925. So he started the store in 1899? Eighteen something. I think 1899. I think the library has that.

PF: What they mention online is at UNCA, Ramsey Library. (Shuffling of newspaper articles.)

JM: This is my great grandmother Stern. And this must have been me at 138 West Avon. Well, you want to ask me questions, I'll try and answer them.

PF: Okay. We'll sit down and do that. Did you always live in North Asheville? Were you born and raised there?

JM: I know that when I was born, my parents lived in Beverly Hills, 1946. Actually, they probably lived on West Avon in the very beginning but then they moved to Beverly Hills. And I don't know why I know this, 109 Kingsgate Road. And that's where I started out, evidently.

PF: And were your earliest memories there?

JM: Oh, I remember that house. In fact, I was just thinking my brother was born there, and I was three when he was born, so we lived there I think till I was five. And I

remember the living room, I remember the backyard, I remember my bedroom and my brother's bedroom was off of the kitchen. You know, they were bungalows. And I do remember all of that. And I remember listening to the radio on Sunday nights with Daddy, and eating celery and carrot sticks. And listening to Jack Benny or somebody.

PF: Well, that's a good memory. And you remember when you moved?

JM: Yes, that was to Lakeshore Drive, and that was 68 Lakeshore Drive. It's still there. And I know that my cousins, we were 68 and there was a house next to us and then my cousins Bobby and Janice and their mom and dad lived across, the next door to that. And Mrs. Hoskins was the lady that lived between us. And I do remember because we always went back and forth across her patio. She was very nice. So, yeah, I remember.

PF: How long did you live on Lakeshore?

JM: Mom and Dad built the house in--I was ten. So that was in '55. And we lived on Midland Drive.

PF: About what age did you go to Midland?

JM: Ten. That's when they built the house and I remember living in Edgewood Knoll Apartments while they were building that house. Next door to us were Dr. Prince and his wife.

PF: Lakeshore, which turns into Elk Mountain when it goes across the overpass there, it's hard for me to picture what was there before I-26 was there. So you must have just had to follow the road down a dip and up the other side, where the bridge goes across?

JM: That I don't remember. I honestly don't remember when they built all that.

PF: When you began school, where did you go to school then? You were living in North Asheville?

JM: The name of the school was Ira B. Jones. Excuse me, it was Grace. It was called Grace School, where Ira B. Jones is now. But it was a fire trap, because I remember wooden steps. It was two-story. I can remember most of my teachers, too. So it was called Grace School, but I guess after died, they built the new one, because he was the principal when I was there.

PF: Oh, Ira B. Jones was? And how many grades did it do?

JM: Five. No kindergarten. I went to Miss Denny's preschool.

PF: Where was that?

JM: I have no idea.

PF: What other schools did you go to then?

JM: I went to David Millard, which was the junior high. And then Lee Edwards, which was Asheville High.

PF: Do you have any other school memories that you'd want to talk about, or North Asheville, or just in general?

JM: Well, as I said, I remember all my teachers. I remember what grade I was in, who they were and what grade they were in. David Millard, I remember the principal of David Millard. I still have class reunions with people from Grace and David Millard. There

were two junior highs in town, one was West Asheville and one was North Asheville. We did not meet until we got to high school.

PF: Where was David Millard?

JM: It was downtown. I'd take a bus and we had to walk from David Millard and it was next to One Oak Plaza, it was where One Oak Plaza is, Schandlers. It was a big hill. They've taken down the hill where south--where Charlotte Street is. They took the hill off. And we had to walk then to downtown to catch the city bus. There was a city bus but you had bus tickets. So you had to walk to town to do that, rain or shine, or your parents picked you up or whatever. And then, high school, and that started in the tenth grade.

PF: Do you have any other memories of the North Asheville neighborhood, where you went for shopping or church or other things?

JM: Yes. I remember where there was a grocery store, two different grocery stores; the one where Avenue M is, was a grocery store, and it was Winn-Dixie. And I remember Mom--we walked to the grocery store from Lakeshore and I remember my sister had one hellacious temper tantrum. All the way home. When we lived on Lakeshore, where Steinmart is and that shopping center, where Ottari comes down and you would cross, you went up the hill right there, there was a trailer park. And my cousin Bobby and I would, she was just four years older than me, so she was in charge of me, walking home and walking to school, and I remember going home through the trailer park and some very nice lady asked us to come in and have cookies. And that was the only time I ever got spanked with a belt.

PF: Oh, my gosh.

JM: No, it wasn't Bobby. It was Ann Snyder, who lived behind us. Her mother's name was Dot Snyder, and I think the two of them were looking for us and the two of us got a whipping. That was the only time I ever got a belt.

Michael Moore: That whole shopping center was a big trailer park.

JM: And the church was there on the corner. Grace. And you walked down the hill, and you would cross the street, and there was the trailer park. And there's a house and you went up the hill. There was a hill when we got to Lakeshore and the Johnsons lived there and it was almost like a farmhouse. And you walked through the trailer park, up the hill to Lakeshore and the Johnsons' house was there, and across the street was [].

PF: So you walked from Lakeshore all the way to Ira B. Jones?

JM: Uh-huh.

PF: The kids today, the parents drive them to the end of the driveway and sit in the car.

JM: And I also remember the lady who was the crossing guard. Of course, her kid was in school there, too.

PF: Well, that's an eye-opener about that being a trailer park there. I never knew that before. That's like when I found out that just above the intersection where Reece's Tires is, further on up, that there was at one time a military place in there. They had like quonset huts.

JM: Oh, that was during the war. Well, where the Goodman house is, all of that area on Beaver Lake, all of that side, there was a horse farm, and the Goodmans owned all of that property. And the house that they lived in is the stone house that's on the corner of--
What is it, Michael? As you come--where the Finkelsteins lived.

MM: Westwood?

JM: Westwood. Thank you. The corner of Westwood near--

MM: Lakeshore.

JM: No. Before that. It's on the corner. Anyway, I can tell you where it is and what it is and I can show it to you. But the Goodmans owned all that property and they owned it, I think, during the war. And I think that's where all the quonset huts were.

PF: So the government probably leased it or whatever compensation?

MM: Right.

JM: Uh-huh. Because my parents, my dad, who also lived on Montford, they also lived on 138 West Avon Parkway, had been during the war. And he also lived at 109 Midland Drive before he and Mom got married, because his parents were at 109 Midland, and then they moved to 138 West Avon. And the kids' pediatrician moved to 109 West Avon.

PF: Who did?

JM: My kids' pediatrician, Lon McAnally.

PF: How many siblings did you have? You mentioned a brother and a sister--

JM: That's what I got.

PF: That's all you were dealt.

JM: That's all I was dealt. My brother is Richard and my sister is Terry.

PF: And how many children do you have?

JM: Two, Melissa and Amy. And no grandchildren. Ain't gonna happen. That's just the way things are.

PF: What other things do you remember that are major changes now in that area of what we call North Asheville? I've also heard there was a trolley that went through what is now Beaver Lake.

JM: That was before my time.

PF: So you were there in the era of the swimming hole?

JM: Yes! I do remember going to the swimming pool. Yes. I do remember that. It had a sandy beach. I remember the rock wall that separated the lake from that. Oh, yes. I remember going there with my--some adult relatives and it was a sandy beach and they had a dressing area. Yeah. I do remember that. And I also remember that one time the lake was drained, totally, and walking on the bottom of the lake. And also I remember huge turtles that were there, that they found. They totally drained that lake and you could walk on it.

PF: And then when they refilled it, did you still have the pool?

JM: I don't think so. I really don't remember.

MM: I think that's when they realized it was not sanitary, leaking around the walls, so that's when they decided they weren't going to let people swim in it anymore. You can sort of see the beach area back in there now.

JM: And there is a stone wall. Yes, I can remember all that.

MM: But when they drained the lake, that's when they determined that the trolley tracks ran through it. And the trolley ran from Grace Station at Grace, to Weaverville.

PF: When do you think that ended?

MM: Oh, gosh, long before that. Because Beaver Lake is a man-made lake.

PF: After high school what did you do?

JM: I went to college. I went to Florida State for two years and then wanted to get married and so came home and went to AB and graduated from there in '68 and taught school for one year, hated every second of it, at St. Eugene's. So that lasted a year. And then I was lucky enough and had my babies. And then I didn't work until I started with Guardian ad Litem.

PF: And what got you interested in that? How did you become aware of it and know that you wanted to go with that? Because you got Guardian ad Litem off the ground here, didn't you?

JM: Yes. Actually, I became a member of Junior League and Junior League was doing some volunteer--you had to do some volunteer work. And I went to, I think a conference.

[Checking recorder at 27 minutes.]

[A portion of the interview was not recorded. When the recording resumed, some may have been repeated.]

JM: I was a member of the Junior League and we were starting to look at different organizations or different volunteer opportunities that there were and somehow, or somebody knew about an organization, it was not called Guardian ad Litem, but for abused and neglected kids. And I got interested in that because I had already been to conferences in DC and through Junior League that I really enjoyed having to do civics-- and I still can't remember the word I want--but having to do with volunteering and working with kids, that sort of thing. So when I went to a conference with that and I came back and they were talking about starting something, Junior League was starting to talk about getting something started here, and I was very interested in that. I was in the first class of four people that was instructed and I was on the committee that hired the first person, Kathy Jacobs. And so when I was on that committee, obviously I was interested in it, and so when they decided to start one here, I was a volunteer. There were four of us that volunteered, the first class. Actually, we had no--now we have books, we have all sorts of things for volunteers, guides, and there was nothing. I mean, it was like pulling from different organizations. It was interesting. So the first time I started, or as I said before, there were four of us in a class and the judges--everything was brand new. The judges weren't really sure what to do with us, but when we started it, and I guess I was there as a volunteer for two years and then a ten-hour position became open and I became a ten-hour person. And then I think it was in '88 I started as a district administrator at twenty hours a week. And then it grew, and it grew, and I had really good people that helped, recruited. And my job was to do screen, recruit, train, and supervise volunteers,

and that's what I did. And I did all of it for a little while and then I got some help. What was her name, Michael? Before Betsy and Sharon?

MM: Kathy Jacobs?

JM: No, before Kathy. The person who was-- Dee.

MM: But I don't remember her last name.

JM: Zucker.

MM: Yeah.

JM: So she was the first one after me that we hired. And then it was Betsy and Sharon. But yeah, we just sort of grew.

MM: Eventually the State started funding. AOC started funding the program and that's how the program grew. Because she basically had no staff when she started.

PF: It's amazing. I just have always been amazed how-- I don't know. You walk in, it's not like, you can have an office that does nothing and then they're chaotic. They do so much and it's orderly, they do their thing.

JM: You do what you gotta do.

PF: But to oversee that kind of program, with that much emotion going on and everything.

JM: It was a very, very, very good part of my life.

PF: And about the doctors you had, living in North Asheville.

JM: Pediatrician. Dr. McGuffen, and he was from the time I was a baby until after I was married. He was our family doctor. Whether he was a pediatrician or what. And when he retired and I had kids, Lon McAnally was their pediatrician and he was Asheville Pediatrics. But that practice came from Dr. McGuffin. That's why we went there. Dr. Reidling was with McGuffin before he died, that's how all of that started. Plus the fact that he lived in my grandparents' house on Midland. McAnally lived at 109 Midland.

PF: What were the area grocery stores that you used, where you shopped and so on.

JM: Winn-Dixie, A&P, Colonial stores. And the Colonial store was where the McDonald's or the post office is now. It was right in that area. And Winn-Dixie was where Avenue M is today. And next to Winn-Dixie was Lord's drug store and that was where you got your drugs and that's where you got your comic books and things like that. They had a fountain.

And I think I told you about my sister when she screamed all the way from Winn-Dixie to home on Lakeshore. That was not a good thing for her.

PF: Did she not get something she wanted?

JM: That's exactly right. She did not get whatever it was she wanted. I can remember Mama dragging her. Oh, my gosh. She had a temper, I remember that. And I had a huge bedroom in that house. It was a two-story house and I can remember I got a huge bedroom and the two others, my brother and my sister, had to share a bedroom. Yes, all by myself.

Did I say anything about the trailer park?

MM: Yes.

PF: But which side of the break was it on?

JM: Well, there was a trailer park at Grace that we went through to go from Grace school up to Lakeshore. We came down from the school on Ottari, through down the street, and across the street there was a trailer park. And one day my friend and I, Ann Snyder, were walking--she was a couple of years older than me, and we walked through the trailer park and some nice lady asked us in for cookies. And we went. And that was the only time I got really really spanked, and that was with a belt. Her mother was Dot Snyder and she and my mom were absolutely terrified because I'm sure they thought we had been abducted. And so, yes, I got spanked that one and only time. So I don't know if I said that twice or not.

PF: And the restaurants?

JM: Restaurants were Grace Restaurant, Athens Restaurant, and they were on Merrimon. Winn-Dixie was where Avenue M is today. The restaurant Athens was Greek, Grace was Greek, and it was called the Beaver Lake Restaurant, I'm assuming it was also. That's where we went on Thursday nights because--and I hate to say this--that's was the maid's night off. We always had a maid when I was growing up. Everybody in that area did.

MM: Yeah, they were all Greek. The restaurants.

JM: And I did say about having dinner on Thursdays. We also went downtown to the S&W on Thursdays, too. And when I was in high school, we had club meetings at the S&W. All the groups had meetings at the S&W. And I also remember, because my dad

was downtown, I took ballet lessons at the Vanderbilt Hotel. And so they would--I don't know how I got there but it wasn't by bus. Now there is a parking lot there, isn't there?

MM: Uh-huh.

JM: When you go down that steep hill, Walnut. Between Bon Marche--behind there is a big parking lot and so Daddy, I guess employees, I don't know who parked in that parking lot, so we always had to walk from Bon Marche down to the parking lot and then I had dance lessons at the Vanderbilt. You rode the elevator all the way to the top and Mrs. Weaver had ballet lessons there.

PF: How many years did you take the ballet lesson?

JM: Probably more than I wanted to. I don't know. I have no idea. I remember as a kid doing that. Yes, one time I was a dog in a recital. I remember a lot of downtown and being in Daddy's store, Bon Marche.

PF: Tell me about that, since you are related to Bon Marche.

JM: Well, I know that I never wanted to sew because I never had to because they had alterations ladies at the Bon Marche. So I have not a clue how to sew anything except a button when I have to.

PF: And how were you related to Bon Marche?

JM: Well, my great grandfather, Solomon, started Bon Marche. And then, I guess after him there were three boys. Solomon had three boys and all worked in the store. Louis, Morris and Whitlock. I don't remember Uncle Whit, what he did there at all. But Louis

was in charge. He was next in line. And all I remember about my grandfather is that he was greeting customers.

PF: And which was your grandfather?

JM: Morris. And then my dad was Morris, Jr. And so he became the--he was at the store for 33 years. He was in charge after his uncle. So Daddy was there, I remember being there. I remember the Christmas parade, being on a float in the Christmas parade. That's where I met Mike. I remember the shoe department. The children's shoe department was on the third floor as you got off the elevator. It was to the right. And they had this machine that showed your feet.

PF: Oh, I've been in many, many of those.

JM: You could see your feet. And then on the left was the boys' department. Girls' department must have been up there, too. I don't remember that, but I remember the offices, and I remember Daddy's office, and I remember Uncle Louis's office. I remember where the switchboard was. Mike and I have different memories of that. But I remember as a kid where the switchboard was. Yeah, the girls' department was up there, too. I remember ladies ready to wear, that floor. Make-up department was on the first floor. Store for homes and things in the basement. Men's department, ladies shoes. I can see it all.

PF: Now when you went to the store, what did you do, I mean as a child?

JM: I guess I played or did something. And I was never allowed to work in the store. But my brother and sister were. Go figure.

PF: And you had the biggest bedroom. You had something on them. [Laughing.] Hmmm.

JM: Yeah, after the first one. No, I was not allowed to work there but I guess after the first one it was okay. I don't know.

PF: Now, when you went to the store, when you were just there, could you go outside the store by yourself those years?

JM: Yeah, and Woolworth's was just down the street, Winner's was across the street. Yes, because, again, there was like---most of the stores were owned by Jews. So everybody knew each other again, just like if they, I think they started on Montford and then everybody went to Beaver Lake. So, yeah, you just knew people. And honestly, then you didn't have to worry about kids like now. So, yeah, we were out and about.

PF: And your favorite memories of being in North Asheville as a child?

JM: The freedom and that's where I grew up and you knew everybody. I can go through like on Midland or any of that area and tell you who lived there as I was growing up. And it was just my neighborhood and the schools that I went to were the same people. When Melissa, our youngest, was looking at colleges she got really--I went to Florida State, she wanted to go to Florida State. And she got into Chapel Hill and a couple of other places. And she wanted to go to Florida State. And we said, "Why do you want to go to Florida State?" She wanted to be a cheerleader at Florida State. I do not know why. "You can go to Chapel Hill. You don't need to go there." And she was adamant about not going to school with the same kids that she grew up with. She started at the JCC. Oh, and I was the head of the JCC preschool.

PF: Now, what is JCC?

JM: Jewish Community Center. Oh, and that's the other place where we grew up was, you know, you went to the JCC. They had, you know, the pool--well, not always. We did not always have a pool. Sometimes we went to the Pines, at Royal Pines, the pool was there. They bused us there because there was no pool at JCC. And I remember doing that and that was a lot of fun. And then they built this tee-tiny pool at JCC. But Mike was actually the president there at one point, at JCC. But I grew up there and Missy and Amy went there for preschool, and I don't know where I was going with that.

MM: You were telling how Melissa did not want to go to Chapel Hill.

JM: Because we went to--she started at the JCC. And the kids, most of the kids were not Jewish. I mean, it's always been probably the best preschool. So Melissa decided she had been through from the time she was three years old through Asheville High with the same kids. And she said, "I'm not going". Well, she did, you know, "You are going to Carolina". But she went through school with the same kids. And it's the same thing that I did with David Millard. I went to grade school. There were a few other city schools north, but I always went to school with the same kids.

PF: Not a bad thing.

JM: No, no. It really wasn't. At the time, it was. That was one reason I went to Florida State.

PF: Now other than the belting at the trailer park [Laughter], do you have any bad memories? Want to cover both sides here. Don't make it too idyllic.

JM: I had a good life. Which I still do.

PF: Good. Well, that might be sort of wrapping this up. Are there any areas that you want to talk about? You grew up there. I may not know the right questions to ask. I know this is centered around North Asheville, but anything else, it all ties. You knew everybody. Were there any characters that you knew of, or any people stories about North Asheville or any places as they grew and changed?

JM: Gosh. I'll probably think of a lot of things later.

PF: Well, that's okay. We can do an addendum, especially if I found out that we missed some key thing.

JM: I don't really have any examples. Here's a picture of Santa Claus, my father as Santa Claus.

PF: Okay. A Jewish Santa Claus.

JM: Bon Marche had to have a Santa Claus. I actually didn't know you wanted to talk about me. I thought you wanted to talk about my family.

(Looking through clippings and photos.) I remember Daddy taking over the store. Also, Daddy was very civic minded and did a lot in the community. But so did his grandfather and so did his father.

PF: I think it's widely--any clippings you see or any history of Solomon Lipinsky, it speaks of his funeral was the largest the man that ran the Riverside Cemetery said that

ever happened there. Where people just remembered him and what a good person he was, his goodness towards everybody.

JM: And I remember people at the store. And just remember Jonas who worked at the store, and the ladies, and they all loved my dad. And Mr. S. Daddy came by it naturally, I guess. So, yes, it was a good life. There are some instances of prejudice that I can remember.

PF: That you experienced or you witnessed?

JM: There were just things that you knew. You know, that were there. And one was Biltmore Forest. You just did not mingle with those people. Things like that. I do remember, and I never could figure it out until later, you know, when I was older, people having to sit in the back of the bus, on the city buses. It had never occurred to me and they actually had a sign "Negros to the back of the bus", and it never-- And I remember separate drinking fountains.

MM: Pack Square had them.

JM: Pack Square had them.

MM: They had underground toilets.

JM: That I never knew. I've never been to an underground toilet here.

MM: And they had separate drinking fountains on Pack Square.

JM: They had them in Pritchard Park.

MM: And Pritchard Park. "Colored" and "White".

JM: Yeah, it was colored. That's what they said, "Colored to the back of the bus".

MM: And that's where we got the tickets, the tickets to go home, in Pritchard Park. When they integrated Asheville High, so I graduated in '64 and it was lily white. My sister graduated five years later and that's when, I think, the first--I think it was about then when they integrated. And I could remember, actually, I had a minor surgery in the hospital and you couldn't--he had to come before--there was a curfew. We had rioting at Asheville High and downtown and so he could only come, there was a curfew then, so he could only come to a certain time. And I don't remember, I graduated high school in '64, so I was in college in '68, and I guess I had that cyst then. Because I went to an all-white school and the best part of the Christmas parade was the Stevens Lee High School band. I mean, they were the best. Everyone wanted to see them. So that was--integration was interesting then. I guess because I grew up in North Asheville and never went through anything like that. You know, everybody there looked like me. So when I was growing up it was all white.

PF: Well, I guess we're going to conclude this. It's been a pleasure.

JM: If you need to redo or ask me more, be my guest. I hope I remembered enough.

MM: I grew up in Weaverville. And North Asheville ended at Beaver Lake, basically, for people who didn't live there, which I didn't. I lived in Weaverville. Weaverville was different than North Asheville. So if we came to town, we came to town. I mean, it was a big deal to come to Asheville. And I can remember we had a bus service from Asheville to Weaverville, called the Asheville-Weaverville Bus Line. And this was before Interstate or Future Interstate 26 was built, and came down Merrimon. And Merrimon Avenue

actually runs to the red light at Weaverville, the first red light at Weaverville. And that was the way we went back and forth, because we didn't have automobiles. So I grew up in Weaverville and went to North Buncombe High School for two years and then I transferred to Asheville High and finished there in 1962. I remember downtown Asheville as very vibrant, lots of stores, lots of goings on down there. And I also saw it decline. And that started about the time the Asheville Mall was built. It just sucked everything out of downtown and buildings sat vacant for years. And now look at it today. It's amazing.

PF: As you came down Merrimon in those days, to go downtown, what changes did you see as time went on. Or what do you remember as you went down there as a child or throughout your life?

MM: Well, coming down from Weaverville to Asheville, not a lot had changed along that road. And it hasn't to this day. I mean there have been a few new buildings and businesses built, but it stayed pretty much the same until you got down to where, actually where Fresh Market is. I remember when they built that shopping center there. The A&P was in there originally and it's now Fresh Market. And then the Ingles and so forth and so on.

And my dad had a business on Charlotte Street. And I came into the business when I came back here. And then when I opened the pet store on Charlotte Street, there was an Ingles across the street which burned down. And that's been thirty years ago or better.

JM: And you also grew up and you said you went to movies in Asheville.

MM: Oh, yeah, and we had skating, skating rinks. We had a skating rink where-- Where Dickie's is there was a skating rink.

JM: And it was there when my kids went there.

MM: And where the Orange Peel was the biggest skating rink, and we had bowling alleys. We had a bowling alley on Merrimon Avenue, and the one on Tunnel Road.

PF: Where was the one on Merrimon?

MM: There's an old Exxon station sitting there vacant right now that's, I think a hotel going to be built in there. But there was two buildings in there and one of those was the bowling alley. And the other bowling alley was in West Asheville, and one off of Tunnel Road by Kennilworth. And we would go bowling and go to the movies. Downtown Asheville had the Imperial Theater, which was on Patton. We had the Plaza which was up where Pack Square is. We had the Strand, which is where the Fine Arts Theater is now. And we had the State, which is on College Street. And that was our four movies. And, you know, you could go into the movie on Saturday and see a double feature for twenty-five cents. And stay there all day, they didn't shoo you out.

JM: The skating rink I remember.

MM: Yeah, the skating was fun. It was an activity and we loved going skating but I didn't start bowling until I was older.

PF: You mentioned your father had a business on Charlotte. What was that business?

MM: That was a refrigeration, commercial refrigeration.

PF: What years?

MM: He started that business in 1929. And I came into it in 1967 and I closed it in 2005.

And we put the pet store in there in '91.

PF: Now, we concentrated on Merrimon before, but what about Charlotte? Were there more businesses out Charlotte?

MM: There were. And there were a lot of private homes out that way, too.

JM: The JCC was there.

MM: The Jewish Community Center was there where it is now but it was a house, an old house, up on a hill. It was somebody's home. I don't recall who owned the home. But they took the hill away.

JM: Very few businesses.

MM: Well, there were actually two, what I would call, early strip centers. But they weren't really strip centers. Because my dad did occupy one of those buildings early on. When he first started, he started on Biltmore Avenue. And then he moved to, there's an Exxon station or convenience store next to the JCC and in that area were four buildings. And he occupied one of those buildings and there was a little grocery store in one of them. Coming back up Charlotte Street, where the beef place is, that was a drug store, Kline's Drug Store. Then you had, coming further towards town, you had, there was an old quonset hut there and there was a fellow named Mr. Tatuken (sp) who had a rug company there, a Persian rug company.

JM: There's a carpet store there now.

MM: Where the carpet store is now, Carpet One is now. And then my dad's building actually was a grocery store. And he bought the building in 1955. It had previously been a grocery store, built as a grocery store. Pretty good size for its day. And it was called Mullinax Food Store. And the reason he ended up with the building was, he had done work for them in the refrigeration side of it and he told them at one point that if they ever wanted to sell the building, he would be interested in buying it. As it turned out, neither of the Mullinax children wanted to be in the grocery store business. So when it came time for mom and dad to retire, they liquidated the grocery store. Called my dad and said, "Are you still interested in buying the building?" My dad said, "Sure". And they arrived at some sort of price and he said, "Well, I've got a thousand dollars that I can give you. And then I'll have to go to the bank and borrow the rest". And I think he paid \$10,000 for the building. And he went to the bank and he was banking with The Bank of Asheville at that time. And they wouldn't loan him the money for some reason. So he walked out the front door of The Bank of Asheville into the back door of then Wachovia downtown. Met a gentleman there that said, "How can we help you?" He said, "I need to borrow some money". "Come let's talk. Would you be willing to move your accounts here?" And he said, "Certainly", and so they loaned him the money. And I can remember because I have the documentation somewhere, that the payments were like \$12.49 a month.

PF: Everything's relative.

MM: But it was a pretty large grocery store. And back then, where there's, I think there's a pilates place on Charlotte next to-- That was also a grocery store, a little local grocery

store called Manley' Market. And Mr. and Mrs. Manley lived upstairs, as often a lot of the folks that ran the grocery stores, small groceries in town did, lived above their store. And I can remember that store and he did a credit business, which meant they write it down in the file and you come in and pay when you get paid. And there were lots of those around, even off Charlotte Street, down Murdock. I can remember some of them down there. Because there were no-- Until the A&P came there were no big grocery stores. So what we call markets, neighborhood markets. It was very interesting. And Charlotte Street was two lanes back in the day. And then they widened Charlotte Street.

JM: The tunnel. The tunnel.

MM: And then talking about that, the tunnel didn't exist-- I can remember when they came to us and they were going to put in the 240 expressway. They came to my dad, and because they were going to do a lot of blasting of rock, and about insurance on the building in case there was any damage, broken glass or anything like that. And I remember that he had to, because there were a lot of plate glass windows in the building, and we had to tape them. They came to tape them when they were doing blasting. And they always gave you a couple hours notice just before they blasted. But the only way down Tunnel Road was through the tunnel.

JM: And you always honked your horn.

MM: You always honked your horn when you went in the tunnel.

JM, MM, PF: Still do.

JM: And you held your breath.

MM: From one end to the other. And there are only two tunnels in Asheville. I don't know whether you know this or not.

PF: Where is the other one?

MM: The one on McDowell.

PF: Oh, yes. Yes.

MM: That and the Beaucatcher Tunnel are the only two. That I remember. And I remember when Tunnel Road became the fast food mecca.

JM: Oh, yeah.

MM: You went through the tunnel and-- And Jean should remember this, too, because we had Buck's Restaurant, we had Wink's Restaurant and we had Babe Malloy's. All local restaurants.

JM: Drive-ins.

MM: Drive-ins. And Wink's had what they called the Melody Tower. And it was a DJ on the radio station. And at night they'd be up there playing songs and you would drop your request into a bucket, and he'd pull the bucket up, you know, "This is for so-and-so." And you went cruising these three different restaurants, drive-ins, just to be sure that you got to be seen and to see who was there. I remember Wink's had what you called a Winkburger, which was their burger. They each had a chipped ham sandwich. And Buck's had a Buckburger.

JM: And that was also an eat-in restaurant.

MM: Yeah, they had an eat-in restaurant in the front and then in the back was the drive-in. And you just cruised these three different places, just to be sure you got seen and see who was there. And that was our entertainment, see.

JM: Oh, and two drive-ins.

MM: Yeah, two drive-in movies on Tunnel Road. Dreamland and Skyland.

PF: My house is furnished from Dreamland, when it became a flea market.

MM: And, you know, the bigger thing was how many can we get in the trunk to get into the theater.

[Laughter.]

MM: We would often get caught. But that was just part of it. I'm trying to think what else. And we all marveled when McDonald's showed up on Tunnel Road.

JM: Oh, and I was a little kid then.

MM: And the golden arches. And you had to walk up to the window. Have you seen the movie of Ray Croc?

PF: No, I haven't seen that.

MM: It was interesting. And I can remember when you ordered here and you picked up over here, the fifteen-cent or ten-cent hamburger or whatever it was. It was amazing. And that was the first fast-food place that showed up on Tunnel Road.

PF: Where was that? Is it where there is one now?

MM: Where it currently is now. In that area. And then one of the first-- Innsbruck Mall, Innsbruck, where Office Depot, I guess, is now, that was built. Never did very well, as far as stores making it in there. And then, as I said, once the Asheville Mall was built, it just sucked everything out of downtown. And it sat there for years and then came back. But I can remember, I worked at the Bon Marche and we used to go to Penney's, I mean Kress's and Woolworth's because they had a lunch counter. And plus they had, you could go in there and get milkshakes and things like that. It was a very active downtown, and very safe downtown. And Lexington Avenue had the farmer's market and they had what we called back then beer bars. And you just sort of didn't-- And the prostitutes were down in that area. So it was not a real safe area to be in unless you were going down to the market. But all the farmers would come into town on Saturday and they'd hit the beer bars and end up in the jail. And then coming back up Broadway it was the same thing. You had a lot of little bars in there for a short period of time. And there was a hotel there, what was the name of the hotel on the corner they've just redone? But anyway, it was sort of known as a house of prostitution, rent by the hour.

JM: Boutique hotel now.

MM: Boutique hotel on the corner of Broadway--

PF: Oh, the Langren or one of those?

JM: The Langren was there.

MM: The Langren was where--

JM: The Windsor.

MM: Yeah, the Windsor. It didn't have a very good reputation back then. It was rent by the hour. And the Langren was up on the corner of Broadway and College, where they're building the new hotel. There's a new hotel going up there. And I actually worked--there was a barbershop in the bottom of the Langren Hotel. And I was the shoeshine boy there for a couple seasons. Didn't make a lot of money, but it was a good experience. But that's where all the judges and the people who would come to get their hair cut. It was very interesting there. I think they had seven barbers there, which was very impressive. Yeah, we've seen a lot of changes in Asheville.

PF: When did you live, then, in North Asheville? Once you got married or--

MM: Yes. We moved into an apartment, which the apartment complex is still there. It's behind Walgreen's, called Graceland Garden Apartments, where all the young people--

JM: All the Jewish young people.

MM: --moved into because the rent was reasonable and the owners were all Jewish, and everybody knew the parents, friends of parents, so it was any easy move to. And then once we decided to buy our home, which we did in Beaver Lake, and we were there 42 years?

JM: Yeah, uh-huh.

PF: And that was your house on Carjen?

MM: Yeah, Carjen, yes. Which was nothing like when we bought it. We totally changed it in forty-some-odd years. But it was interesting.

JM: But Mike grew up in Weaverville, went to North Buncombe and all the schools out there. And he lived across the street, he lived next to the school that's there now.

MM: It would be the elementary school.

JM: It was on Park Street. And across the street was the funeral home.

MM: The house is still there.

PF: On Park. Now, that's the little pass-through street?

MM: Yeah, sort of.

PF: What's the number on Park, where you grew up?

MM: We had no number back then. I think it's number nine? We always went to the post office to get our mail. Now they do it in a box. We had the same box number from Day One at the post office, which is where the old drug store is now. Which was originally where Well Bred Bakery is. That was the first drug store. We had three doctors in town, made house calls. Of course, we had three hospitals in Asheville. Well, we had three then. We had Aston Park, we had St. Joe and Mission.

JM: Mission was Victoria.

MM: Yeah, originally.

JM: There was a black hospital.

MM: Yeah, there was a black hospital and I cannot remember where.

JM: I think it was Aston Park.

MM: No, it wasn't Aston Park. Weaverville had changed dramatically. We have an ABC store in Weaverville and who would ever have thought that. Beer and wine sold in Weaverville, in the restaurants in downtown Weaverville.

PF: Yeah, when we moved there in '78, the main structures in Weaverville were two big seed stores, feed and seed.

JM: And Shope's.

MM: I grew up with that family. My mother bought furniture.

PF: And that has just recently closed, last year or so.

JM: And his grandparents lived on College Street.

MM: They were retired schoolteachers, my grandparents were. And they had built a house on College Street the year before they retired.

JM: Your aunt and uncle lived on Main Street.

MM: Oh, yeah. My aunt and uncle lived on Main Street across from Blue Mountain Pizza, where there's a venue now.

JM: It's not there now.

MM: Yeah, it's closed because they had a fire there. My daughter, my daughter got married there. When Jean and I were engaged, my aunt and uncle lived and owned that house. And my aunt and uncle had a, I guess they introduced the bride-to-be to Weaverville, coming to a little party for her. And when Amy was married there, what two years ago now, I guess, it was just real interesting that this same place which my daughter

is getting married in was a place where many, many years before that my aunt and uncle had given us a party.

JM: And lived there.

MM: And lived there. And they raised their children there. And she was the daughter of the man who started the Weaverville Telephone Company, which was behind one of the feed stores. It was a little house down there. I remember my sister, my older sister, was a telephone operator when you had to plug in those things and unplug them.

PF: I always wanted to do that.

JM: Well, I did that in my father's store. I was allowed to.

MM: She played with the things, the plugs. But Mr. Erskine, Mr. and Mrs. Erskine, who started the phone company, and my aunt was the daughter. And she inherited the Erskine home which was this venue that my daughter got married in, which was real interesting. It was a very nice place and it, unfortunately, had a fire.

PF: I didn't realize it had a fire.

JM: What was the name of it?

MM: Good question.

PF: They held seminars and stuff there, beautiful grounds.

MM: Yeah, the grounds were just lovely, and they had a big room in the back and you could actually rent, I think they had four rooms you could rent.

PF: I went through it on one of those downtown tours one time.

MM: It was very nice. And that's where my aunt and uncle lived.

JM: Well, the room that we had the party in wasn't there.

MM: Right. They had built on to the back to make the venue work.

JM: It was a spa.

MM: Yeah, it was a spa. So that had changed over the years. And Weaverville, I can remember they had Shope's Grocery, before Shope's Furniture, and you had another little grocery store on main street. Maybe where Mangum Pottery is, somewhere in there. A five-and-dime store, which was run by the Nichols family. Of course, the drug store.

PF: Where was the dime store?

MM: Right in there in that same area, like there's a restaurant in there.

PF: Glass Onion?

MM: Glass Onion, in that area. That was Robinson's Grocery. Then you had, gosh, there was a lending library in there at one time. There was a five-and-dime store. Trying to remember what else in those buildings. And that was it. There was no Weaver Boulevard. Weaver Boulevard was not even thought of at that time. It was just public land, like here. There was an apple orchard here.

PF: Yeah. I have pictures picking apples here.

MM: So Weaverville has changed. But if we wanted entertainment, we had to come to Asheville. They had all the movies, they had the skating rinks, they had bowling. We didn't have any of that out here. And it was, we used to say we were going to the city. Because Weaverville basically was a village, it was called the village of Weaverville.

PF: Now, did you--I don't know what your age difference is here, but did you also partake of the things along Merrimon that she mentioned, like the pool at Beaver Lake, stuff like that?

MM: Never did. Never did. That was early on and later on Weaverville actually, we had a pool above Lake Louise.

PF: Oh, yes. Yeah, a municipal pool. My children went to that. It was so off and on, when it was open.

MM: But when it originally started, it was open all summer long, because we used to hang out there. But the Beaver Lake pool, I think the Beaver Lake pool was closed long before that occurred out there. So any entertainment, we had to come to town. And then if you had a car, or you knew somebody that did, or you caught the bus. And we would catch the bus at the bus station, which was on Coxe Avenue. And then there was one pick-up point at the corner of College and Lexington. You'd stand there and wait for the bus to come across that way. Then all the cabs and the buses, the Trailways and Greyhounds, were all out on Coxe Avenue, plus the local buses. And then, back then too, you had American Enka, you had factories that ran their own bus services for their employees. And they'd pick up their employees and drop them off, which is something you don't see in this day and age. Of course, those factories are all gone. But a lot of

Merrimon remained the same and there was--I can remember, when you come down near the Carat Patch there's a log cabin thing.

PF: There was a craft store there when we came.

MM: Yeah, back up there was called The Pines, I think, and right behind our house--I think they still rent those out. That hasn't changed over the years.

PF: I went to a tour of the Preservation Society at both places, The Pines and the one next to it. And we got to go in the--- As you come up 26, just before you get to Dry Ridge, you look down, you see the roof of one of them?

MM: Yeah.

PF: That's where they had the bedroom scene of Thunder Road.

MM: Well, I'll tell you a story about Thunder Road. Behind our house in Weaverville there was--the building is still there, and it was a garage there, auto mechanic garage. And I witnessed the scene in Thunder Road where Robert Mitchum and his son, James Mitchum, were having this conversation about one of the cars they were going to use to move moonshine, and I remember when they told us they were going to film, it was called Wilson's Garage at the time, they were going to film, so everybody in town wanted to come down there and see Robert Mitchum and see how they were going to film. Since I lived right behind, right above the garage, across the street, and I knew Mr. Wilson, I went down early in the morning, long before they got there. He let me stay in the garage with him when they came to film. They brought all these people out on city buses, Mitchum and so forth and so on, the crew and everybody that was going to do the

filming, except for Robert Mitchum. And then he came in in a car and he showed up there and he was pretty well on his way by the time he got there. And this is 10 o'clock in the morning. So eventually they got around to telling him, I don't know, it was 1 o'clock in the afternoon before they could even start the filming because he hadn't gotten over his morning whatever. Because he was bad to drink. And they filmed the thing and we got to see Robert Mitchum and his son. And I never thought his son was a particularly good actor or actor. I don't think he did anything after Thunder Road. There might have been something, but Mitchum went on to do fairly well. And then I remember, too, downtown, the office place called Hoyle's Office Supply. And they did part of the filming in there because they had an indoor garage in there. And part of the filming was done there. And down on Merrimon Avenue, it was where the famous blow-up scene where it ran the car into the gas station or blew it up. They mocked--there was an actual gas station there but they did a mock-up of it down on the river road, out of cardboard and whatever, and did it that way. And then up at Reems Creek, there was a cabin up there that they used, that became part of it, too. So it was a big deal when they made Thunder Road.

PF: Yeah, all over Asheville. Now, do you remember when the raceway was out where the new high school is, I guess, out that way?

MM: Yes. The Asheville-Weaverville Speedway. And long before the four-lane, all the race cars that would have to come through Weaverville to go to the speedway. And it was Southern stock car racing, with a dirt track. I remember when they did pave it. But you'd see all those race cars come through.

PF: That would be exciting now.

MM: We'd see it right in front of Shope's Furniture and just watch them come through. You know, if it had been a particularly rainy Sunday or something, they would all be covered in mud, and they'd be pulling them in trailers and stuff. It was fun.

[Side comments by PF.]

MM: Well, I think the track was operated by the Sluders, the Sluder family.

PF: Oh, yeah. Huh. Because they have that oil business that's sort of out there.

MM: Yeah, right.

PF: I know him through antiques auction, Jerry Sluder, the son I guess it would be.

MM: Probably his grandfather started it or something. And you just got to be careful out there, you don't know who you're talking about.

PF: Oh, yeah? Talk about what?

MM: You never know who you're talking about, who's related to who. And then I remember the raceway we had out on Amboy Road. That was a stock car raceway.

PF: Oh, yes. That was still here when we came in '78. Yeah.

MM: And one of the reasons they had to do away with that was when the Biltmore built their new hotel.

PF: Yeah.

MM: The noise drove the people crazy. So we've seen-- And Biltmore, when we were kids, you know, in school, there used to be tours of the farm. They would take school-- I guess they still do today, I don't know whether the farm is still there.

PF: No, the farm is not really there.

MM: But they had the cows, the dairy, and we used to go out get our Winky bar and get to see the cows, the milking parlors and things like that. That was a thing that probably every school kid, as long as they had the dairy out there, they got to do that. But I like changes. I think it's been good. It's been good for Weaverville anyway.

PF: Yeah, I think of Weaverville almost like a boutique city now.

MM: Yeah, it is. It really is. It's a nice place to go. Downtown's not going to change a lot, but--

JM: It's changing.

MM: Well, it's changing, but you're not going to see a lot of new buildings being built downtown. That's happened out on Weaver Boulevard. And the unfortunate thing about it, they're building this new apartment complex up here on the corner of Monticello.

PF: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

MM: Now, right now, that's as far as water and sewer is going. Past that, there's no water and sewer. Unless the city comes up with a lot of money to extend those water and sewer lines out there, there's going to be a lot less growth in that area. Why did Publix come? They knew what was going to happen and that's going to be a big thing for them. And out

on Weaver Boulevard, it was nothing out there. People would say, “Well, whatever is going to happen to that land out there?” Now look at it. It's unreal. And Hamburg Mountain same way. I mean, we used to camp up there.

PF: Yeah, my son did with the Boy Scouts. Lots of arrowheads every time it rained.

MM: We just loved to go up there and camp. And then they started building houses. But I mean who would ever have thought Pinewood Farms would be here. Or Alpine Meadows, or any-- Look at Woodland Hills. When we saw Woodland Hills come in, and that Woodland Hills is no young--

PF: That was in the sixties.

MM: Yeah, in the sixties. And they said, “Gosh, how are people going to afford houses out there in Woodland Hills?” Because it was upscale in the sixties, very upscale.

PF: Now it's gone full cycle. There were families moving in then, and now it's beginner houses again. Just a smattering of the original people now. Although several have gone to the next generation, same house that they inherited and moved in.

MM: Another gentleman that traded with me at the store, he bought a house out there, and then his daughter moved here and she's a nurse at Mission, and she got married and she and her husband bought a house out there. Can't say exactly where they are.

JM: Out there is right here. What are you talking about?

MM: Right around the corner. Can't say “out there” anymore.

PF: No, I love that location. You're on expressway from town and you're there in twelve minutes or something, on a good day. Every other, east, west or south, you go through yuck to get there. It's the only one that you can get on 26 and be here and it's lovely out here.

MM: But I never dreamed that we would be this close back to Weaverville. Those were the days.

PF: Well, I'm going to turn this off. Thank you both very much.

END OF INTERVIEW.